

STEP 6 - *RECOMMENDATIONS*

This step synthesizes results of the ecosystem processes discussed in previous steps and generates management recommendations responsive to issues and key questions. The goal of the recommendations is to identify changes in ecosystem conditions and function that require management action to achieve desired ecologic, economic, and social objectives.

Note: *Flood damage occurred late in the analysis process; January 1997. Management Opportunities developed are based upon conditions that existed prior to flooding --with the exception of an opportunity to inventory, assess flood damage, and determine restoration needs, etc., refer to Appendix B.*

Management recommendations are broken into ten issue areas; **Upslope Hydrological Processes, Riparian Reserves, Aquatic Species, Forest Health, Fire, Late-Successional Habitat, Terrestrial Wildlife, Roads, Timber Output on Public Lands, and Human Uses.** Recommendations are developed based on analyses and conclusions reached in previous steps. Recommendations are displayed in narrative format in Tables 6-1 through 6-10.

Recommendations focus on Management Opportunities which are also displayed in Figures 6-1 through 6-8, located in the Map Packet at the end of this document. Narratives are to be used in conjunction with these maps to arrive at opportunity locations.

Tables in this step provide general descriptions of the Existing Situation, Desired Conditions, Management Opportunity, Benefitting Resources, Considerations, and Emphasis Rating. **Red Flag** opportunities, which should be given the highest priority, are identified in the Management Opportunity column.

TABLE COLUMN DEFINITIONS

Existing Situation & Desired Condition - These narratives are qualitative and quantitative determinations identified through the analysis process. Existing Situation summary statements are generated directly from integrating information on management practices and/or ecological processes from Steps 3, 4, and 5; most are situations not meeting Desired Conditions.

Desired Conditions are developed from Step 5 – Interpretation and represent a refinement of direction from the *Forest Plan*.

Management Opportunity - This is the identification of management actions, projects, and other activities

that promote Desired Conditions. During the analysis process, comparisons were made between Existing Situation And Desired Conditions to determine how close a particular resource or ecological function was to achieving the Desired Condition. Opportunities were developed that either maintained the Desired Condition, or improved ecosystem trends to move towards Desired Condition.

Benefitting Resources - This identifies a priority list of multiple resources that most benefit from the completion of the listed opportunity.

Considerations - Factors identified in this column should be taken into account when implementing Management Opportunities. They may include risks or benefits to other resources, or options and alternatives to consider when accomplishing the Management Opportunity. Comments found under Considerations should be reviewed during development and implementation of site-specific projects.

Emphasis Rating - To assist with establishing work priorities for project development, an Emphasis Rating system is used. The following questions are considered for rating individual opportunities:

- 1- Are there resources at-risk if the opportunity does not occur?
- 2- Is the opportunity an immediate need?
- 3- Are there amenity or commodity benefits from doing the opportunity?
- 4- Does the opportunity have implications outside the watershed?
- 5- What is the value of the completed opportunity as opposed to the cost of implementation?

Each opportunity is given a rating by the Analysis Team, based on their professional judgement, assigning a High, Medium, or Low value to the five questions listed above. These five values are averaged to establish the overall Emphasis Rating.

When an across the board rating of High is given, it is referred to as a **Red Flag** opportunity. It implies a sense of urgency for implementation to bring an ecosystem function or system back in balance or respond to human needs or values.

It is important to note that all identified opportunities are general in nature. Specific "how tos" will be determined later, during project development and

implementation at the District level, through a project environmental analysis.